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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 32 are pending. No claims are allowed.
Claim 15 is canceled.

1. The Examiner indicates that no Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was filed containing U.S. Patent No. 5,744,258 to Bai et al. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Enclosed with this amendment is a copy of the supplemental IDS along with a copy of the accompanying post card. The post card is clearly date stamped June 18, 2003, indicating that the U.S. Patent Office did receive the supplemental IDS and the referenced Bai et al. patent.

2. Claims 22 to 32 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The indefinite language noted in independent claim 22 has been amended. Claims 23 to 33 are believed to be allowable as hinging from a patentable base claim.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. Claims 1 to 32 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gan (U.S. Patent No. 5,551,747) in view of Endo. (EP 58-223264, abstract). A Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.131 is included with this amendment. The declaration includes a copy of a patent disclosure evidencing that the inventors of the present application had conceived and reduced their invention to practice prior to the effective date of the Gan reference. Therefore, Gan

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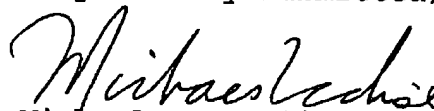
is not a proper obviating reference in combination with Endo.

Accordingly, it is believed that independent claims 1, 20, and 22 are patentable over Gan in view of Endo. Claims 2 to 14, 16 to 19, 21 and 23 to 32 are allowable as hinging from patentable base claims.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

It is believed that claims 1 to 14 and 16 to 32 are now in condition for allowance. Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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